



Parent, Family & Community Engagement Mini-Grant

Program	Ward	Funding Amount	Program Model Summary
Barbara Chambers Children's Center	1	\$5,000.00	Barbara Chambers has created a program called La Escuelita de los Padres (The Little School for parents). This program covers topics such as issues related to family relationships, parenting, literacy and nutrition. The program operates 8 weeks and meets twice per week in the evenings. There is a class agenda with the weekly topics as well as guest speakers. There is a great need to show parents constructive methods of getting involved with their children; the learning and education goes beyond the workshops Barbara Chambers hosts and into the home.
Board of Child Care's DC Early Education Center	6	\$5,000.00	Board of Child Care's DC Early Education Center plans to expand their current program which promotes the well-being of children through parent and family engagement activities by implementing new activities/programs. They hope to focus more on the well-being of families by establishing a Family Resource Center where families can receive information on their children's education, access to resources, case management social work support etc. Board of Child Care plans to also provide professional development opportunities that will help foster positive parent-child relationships in addition to providing monthly evening trainings in subjects designed to include more families and increase participation --social media and other forms of technology will be used to reach out. Lastly, Board of Child Care also plans to implement a Bank to School Family Event in addition to a Parent/Caretaker Volunteer program to increase parent participation in a different capacity.

<p>Bright Beginnings, Inc.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>Bright Beginning's (BB) plans to engage parents in their children's educational and emotional development in a new way through the research-based ACT "Parents Raising Safe Kids" program. BB will promote family engagement in school readiness by facilitating the ACT Program, an eight-week course about child development and violence prevention, with homeless parents of preschool-aged children. The program will be very important for BB families where violence and frustration are so prevalent. The ACT Program, developed by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), is designed to educate parents and caregivers to protect children from violence before it occurs. The ACT Program also supports parents as they learn about early child development: that children learn by example, that children behave differently at certain ages, and that there are positive ways to discipline. As a result, the ACT Program helps parents create a nurturing, safe, and non-violent home environment where children can thrive and prepare for school success. BB's goal is that participating parents learn about new ways to positively support their children's development and how to build strong families. With this knowledge about child development, their expectations for their children become positive and realistic. Bright Beginnings also seeks to provide parents with a mindset and awareness of how their own actions affect their children. The program's goals are to strengthen families, improve parenting skills, and to prevent child maltreatment.</p>
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<p>CentroNia</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>CentroNia has created The Mama Maestra program, which empowers 20 Latina pregnant and new mothers in Washington, D.C. and Maryland to increase their knowledge of the importance of early child literacy, health, nutrition and stress relief in their native language, so they can improve their parenting skills. This multi-year initiative is designed to work with the same group of women and follow the mother and child experiences from birth to ages four or five. The goal is to ensure that the children are better prepared to enter kindergarten. Participants draw upon their Latino heritage to learn, apply, and document their behavior around critical components of early childhood development - beginning from the womb. There are two Mama Maestra clubs, each composed of 10 pregnant, low-income, Spanish-speaking mothers. CentoNia's Community Engagement and Education (CEE) program coordinates and supports the Washington, D.C. club of Mama Maestra. Mamas meet twice a month through a series of skills-building workshops. Each two hour workshop integrates literacy-rich experiences such as read aloud, singing, playing, storytelling, and other activities related to the day's theme (i.e. nutrition, Latino folklore, mother as baby's first teacher). CentroNia experts in literacy, nutrition, and early childhood education facilitate the workshops and use culturally relevant materials to assist in the connection between mothers and their babies.</p>
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Chantelle's Quality Child Care Center Inc.	4	\$5,000.00	Chantelle's Quality Child care Center believes that every child deserves a fair chance at success, and proposes a high quality innovative, enriching, engaging and fun-loving Parent, Family, Community and Engagement program. For nearly two decades the center has provided sustainable, educational and culturally competent curriculum for 80% low income and single-parent headed households to parents residing throughout all Wards. Presently the center serves 38 children whom 80% come from low income families while 20% come from working class families. While many of the low income parents want to participate more frequently in the lives of their children, they find that lack of employment and lack of education are the primary barriers that they face. Chantelle's program plans to address these barriers by meeting student needs, specific strategies for parents to work with early childhood educators within the center to increase cultural competency; and knowledge of different students' learning needs, especially those from special populations.
Covenant House Washington	8	\$5,000.00	Covenant House Washington plans to launch a parent and family engagement campaign with activities including a family fun night, a community resource fair, a parent appreciation field trip and, most importantly, a family resource lab, that will hold computer stations, books, information on community resources and a lending library, which will provide an array of parent-child interaction activities. The hope is to provide more learning resources for parents that will lead to greater long-term developmental outcomes for the children served through the program.

Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center	1,2	\$5,000.00	Edward Mazique will be working with families to help them gain family life practices that promote school readiness. Mazique's goal is to build a cadre of parent leaders to promote a learning community and culture within the program where parents help each other to integrate family life practices that will support children's learning, a goal which will align with the Family Engagement Outcome. The objective of this project is to make parents lifelong educators, advocates and participants engaged in their children's education and learning. Throughout the duration of this project, trainings will be provided for parents to facilitate involvement in their child's academic career and the use of Developmentally Appropriate Practices to ensure academic successes are sustained beyond the child's matriculation at Mazique. Additionally, parent orientation sessions support will be targeted activities to individualize the needs of the child and parents.
Jubilee Jumpstart	1	\$5,000.00	Jubilee JumpStart implements a Family Engagement Program that is directly relates to its mission to empower families to move up and out of poverty by helping children and parents to realize their educational and career opportunities. The Family Engagement Program is concentrated in three core areas: community building, family support, and transition planning. Jubilee JumpStart does not just enroll children, the center enrolls whole families. The center primarily works with low-income families and hopes to help parents work to achieve educational and career successes. Jubilee Jumpstart also desires to help parents build relationships with other parents. Parenting is a great equalizer for all of our families, as they can relate to similar issues as their children grow and develop. Additionally, the center hopes to teach parents how to become advocates for their children and in turn helping parents be better advocates for themselves.

<p>Mamie Ruth Mewborn</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>Parent involvement is a combination of commitment and active participation on the part of the parent to the child. Ms. Mamie Ruth Mewborn proposes to organize a parent/teacher focus group to determine how families and staff view technology (i.e. internet, Go-To-Meeting calls, Facebook and other electronic approaches...) as a means to improve communication between the program and parents regarding activities and performance and to pilot the suggested technology. Specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of the kinds of technology parents currently use and how well those methods of communication work; 2. Determine parents needs for improved communication about program activities and child's performance; 3. To assess to what extent increased electronic communication can help address those needs; and 4. Conduct other activities, such as establishing and equipping a parent resource center, to encourage and support parents in developing additional skills.
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<p>Martha's Table, Inc.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>Martha's Table plans to implement an innovative “Parents as Teachers” model for our infants, toddlers and preschoolers, which will yield children who have a more stable environment to learn and grow and parents who are well prepared to support their child’s success in school and in life. As a result, Martha’s Table will proactively address the stressors and challenges its parents face while also proactively strengthening existing assets and the parenting skills and practices that have direct impact on their child’s success and well-being. Since research clearly confirms the value of intervention in the earliest years, we will target specialized, evidence-based strategies to parents with children enrolled in our early childhood program. The center hopes to implement 4 critical components of the parent as teacher model: personal/home visits, parent/group connections, child screenings, and a robust resource network in order to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase our parent’s knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; 2. Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; 3. Prevent child abuse and neglect; and 4. Increase our children’s school readiness and success.
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<p>National Children's Center</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>National Children's Center proposes to enhance the parent, family and community relationships by providing monthly parenting trainings/workshops that will enhance the parents' knowledge and understanding of parenting, child development and social-economics needed to assist in raising their children. The trainings and workshops will also engage and encourage ongoing involvement in the classrooms, program environment, and community. The impact of this project will improve parenting practices at home and have long-term effects on the future outcomes of the families involved. An additional activity will be the Brunch Bunch, which is a family book club designed to promote a love of learning, especially reading among young children by facilitating nightly story time between parents and their children. It will be open to all parents with children at the National Children's Center's Early Learning Center. Once enrolled, parents will attend monthly brunches where a facilitator will introduce and distribute new books. Parents who participate will receive one or more children's books per month to build their home library. Each month there will be a different facilitator with a theme. Facilitators may include speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, teachers, social workers, reading specialists, and other professionals from the NCC ELC. NCC hope's to build parent and family resources and support systems as well as increase parent competency and confidence in engaging their children. In addition to enhancing their commitment to providing academic support for their children early-on in their children's life. This will result in a better quality of life; promote an interest in learning, improve communication skills and vocabulary and strengthen parental support for academic endeavors in the children we serve.</p>
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<p>Southeast Children's Fund</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>The Southeast Children's Fund, Child Development Center #2 proposes to build a Professional Community of Practice along with 2 other Early Care and Education Centers and 2 Family Early Care and Education. Homes in the Southeast's section of the city are one of the most underserved areas. The purpose will be to lay the foundation for the participants understanding and application of the sections in the Early Head Start/Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework. This result will be the team from each Center and Home will create a draft Action Plan to begin to implement the Framework. The PFCE Framework is about creating and implementing the systems and the services that get parents and families engaged with the easily care and education professionals where they choose to enroll their child with the conscious intent to make sure their child has the foundation to be successful in school and sustain this success throughout his/her life. The Framework is rooted in the belief that high quality partnerships between parents, family members and the Early Care and Education Professional staff is fundamental to children's current and future success and their readiness for school.</p>
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<p>Spanish Education Development Center</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>Spanish Education Development (SED) Center proposes to continue offering a family education project that will enable SED's parents to acquire the knowledge necessary to further engage in their child's education—leading to better educational outcomes due to parental involvement. The focus is to give options and responses to family hardships in hopes that families may develop, strengthen, restructure, and pass on favorable changes to family relationships and their community. Ultimately, this project aims at having parents create a stable environment for their children leading to child development, a healthy personality, and the capability of interacting and dealing with different family and social situations. Formally started in 2006, this project intends to be an on-going, sustainable project for the Children's Program. Parents now consistently participate in the activities of the Children's Program and the SED Center's overall events due to the positive feedback of the project. The five primary goals of this project are to:</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To obtain an appropriate state of physical, social, and mental well-being in students and families through greater parental involvement. 2. To promote family involvement in the education and care of the child. 3. To stimulate competency in family development and growth. 4. To guarantee families the availability of information necessary to foster family development. 5. To provide families with resources to surpass adversities in anticipation that they may develop, strengthen, restructure, and pass on favorable changes to family relationships and their community.
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<p>United Planning Organization</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>United Planning Organization (UPO) finds one of the inherent challenges of working with teen parents as addressing the child's development within the context of the teen parent's development and growth. As teens begin to make the change from concrete thinking to abstract thinking, teen parents are also expected to understand and synthesize their baby's development. As early childhood education experts, we are charged with explaining child development in a way that teens can understand. UPO's Office of Early Learning (OEL) will begin the new program year by providing its teen parents with an interactive activity that combines learning with fun, Baby and Me Workshops and Tot Olympics. The focus will be on the teen parents in the five high schools that we serve, with a special emphasis on our fathers. UPO's OEL will work with teen mothers to encourage fathers to attend the program, emphasize the importance for fathers in a child's life, and personally invite the fathers. UPO's OEL will also promote the various job skills training programs offered by UPO's Workforce Development and Adult Education Divisions in an effort to connect fathers to training programs that can help them provide for their children. In addition, OEL will assess its centers for father friendliness, ensuring that resources for fathers are available and that they are welcomed with items like pictures of fathers and children are visible in reception areas and classrooms. Finally, UPO's OEL will employ outreach strategies recommended by the National Fatherhood Initiative and Concerned Black Men.</p> <p>It is UPO's theory that with increased knowledge comes increased intrinsic rewards, such as increased understanding of the development of the infant and toddler. UPO expects the ultimate outcome to be standard development in most of the children. For children with atypical development, UPO's OEL expects</p>
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to be able to intervene early to ameliorate any suspected delays.

<p>Vision of Victory</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>The goal of Vision of Victory CDC's initiative is to increase the involvement of fathers and families of in our community. Specifically they want to assist in the creation of memorable moments between fathers and their children and support fathers as they increase their capacity to be good dads. Many of the children we serve live in fatherless households or households where the male figure lacks the desire and/or capacity to be a healthy father. To accomplish the goals of this initiative Vision of Victory CDC seeks to provide a Quenching The Fathers Curriculum, a six week parenting training workshop for Fathers in conjunction with social cultural experiences. Quenching The Fathers Thirst Curriculum was created from the Paternal Systems Theory. This curriculum provides a framework for understanding the role of the father; addresses the systemic barriers to fathering, and provides training in specific skills to become the father his child/children needs. It's a tool to transform the dysfunctional father into a functioning father and the functioning father into a higher functioning father.</p> <p>Social cultural experiences provide opportunities for fathers to spend time with their children in healthy and productive environments. Providing opportunities for fathers to learn with their children contributes to a better understanding of adult influence on development. Through this initiative we will provide structured activities for fathers and children to engage.</p>
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